NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
BACKGROUNDER NO. 1-0629 APRIL 22, 1976
MARK HOPKINS/MUNICH

A NEW "BREZHNEV DOCTRINE?"

ANNCR:

BRITISH ANALYSTS OF SOVIET AFFAIRS SEE A NEW CHANGE IN SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. FOLLOWING A RECENT VISIT TO LONDON, VOA CORRESPONDENT MARK HOPKINS SENT THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

VOICE:

BRITISH DIPLOMATIC ANALYSTS THINK THAT THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP IS NOW LOOKING ON EAST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AS ULTIMATELY A PERMANENT PART OF AN EXPANDED SOVIET UNION -- MUCH AS DOMINANT RUSSIANS IN THE SOVIET UNION ITSELF CONTROL MINORITY NATIONALITIES THERE.

AS TO EAST EUROPE ITSELF, OTHER BRITISH EXPERTS NOTE THAT YUGOSLAVIA IS, WITH A SERIES OF TRIALS OF PRO-SOVIET "COMINFORMISTS" AND VEILED STATEMENTS, WARNING THE SOVIET UNION AGAINST INTERFERENCE IN A POST-TITO YUGOSLAVIA. ROMANIA CONTINUES A COURSE OF INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY, AND ONLY PROPER RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET DOMINATED WARSAW PACT AND COMECON, THE ECONOMIC GROUPING.

THESE CONCLUSIONS FOLLOW A CLOSE ANALYSIS OF PARTY LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV'S BASIC POLICY ADDRESS AT THE RECENT SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS. BRITISH ANALYSTS HAVE CAREFULLY COMPARED THIS WITH SOVIET OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON NATIONALITIES POLICY. THEY NOW NOTE THE SAME WORDING APPLIED TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE SOVIET UNION. AND, ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, BRITISH EXPERTS ON SOVIET AFFAIRS ARE STRUCK BY MORE EXPLICIT WORDING OF BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER TODOR

ZHIVKOV, WHO -- AT THE BULGARIAN PARTY CONGRESS -- REFERRED TO A "FULLER AND MORE ORGANIC DRAWING TOGETHER" OF BULGARIA AND THE SOVIET UNION.

THIS PHRASING, ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH ANALYSIS, HAS BEEN EMPHASIZED IN THE SOVIET UNION OFFICIAL PRESS, INDICATING THAT MOSCOW ENDORSES THIS CONCEPT OF THE "ORGANIC DRAWING TOGETHER" OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

BRITISH ANALYSTS ARE IMPRESSED BY SECRETARY BREZHNEV'S ASSERTION -- AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH PARTY CONGRESS -- THAT THE SO-CALLED "DRAWING TOGETHER" IS AN "OBJECTIVE LAW" ... THAT IS, A PROCESS THAT THE KREMLIN CONSIDERS INEVITABLE.

THE ANALYSTS ALSO NOTE THAT SECRETARY BREZHNEV INDICATED THAT HE INCLUDES NON-ALIGNED YUGOSLAVIA. AND THEY SEE MISTER BREZHNEV'S WORDS NOT ONLY AS A NEW PHRASING, BUT A KEY TO LONG-TERM SOVIET INTENTIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE, AS WESTERN COMMUNIST PARTIES ADD TO DISSENSIONS IN THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT.

WHATEVER MOSCOW'S VIEW, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT IN EASTERN EUROPE, HUNGARY AND POLAND ARE TENDING TO MORE AUTONOMY IN THEIR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. EAST GERMANY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND BULGARIA -- FOR VARIOUS REASONS -- REMAIN MORE TIGHTLY WEDDED TO SOVIET POLICIES.

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